

ATB

ROM-A-5710

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

20. Mai 1953

Chief of Base, Munich

INFO: GCM, Frankfurt

Operational/CAPT/CASTONE

Otto HANTEL

1. MEB is considering hiring Subject as a CI Legman. He was born 30 December 1899 in Gladow an der Havel (Prussia) and is a German national. During the war he served in various offices of the Gestapo. From early 1944 to March 1945 he was stationed in Luxembourg as head of a sub-post. After the war, he was handed over by the Americans to Luxembourg to stand trial for war crimes. His story of what happened to him in Luxembourg is set out in the attachment. From this it appears that he was confined in Luxembourg from about 24 September 1946 until 5 August 1950.

2. We are interested in determining as much information as possible as to whether Subject was ever tried, in absentia or otherwise, and if so the outcome of the trial. If he was in fact found guilty and sentenced to 5 years or any other term, was he given credit for the time spent in prison before trial? Is he wanted now by the Luxembourg authorities on any count whatsoever?

3. A prompt response will be appreciated.

Distribution:

- 3 - [] (w/att)
- 3 - GCM (w/att)
- 2 - EE (w/att) a jn
- 1 - ME (w/att)
- 2 - MEB (w/att)

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

Enclosure:
1 - Report

19 May 1953

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

Copy

201 1013

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

About July 1946 I was transferred to the Kornwestheim Camp and in September 1946 to the camp in Ludwigsburg. The reason for this transfer I learned only when I arrived in Ludwigsburg. Here I found that I had been sent here as a war criminal and this camp was a camp for war criminals. Only three days after my arrival at Ludwigsburg i.e. 24 September 1946 I was ordered to report to the camp management. There I was received by a Captain, a member of the Luxembourg Army, who stated to me that I would be extradited to Luxembourg for war crimes allegedly committed there. After this interview I was taken out in front of the camp gate. Eight other internees who previously had been assigned to a number of German agencies in Luxembourg stood there with their face turned towards the wall.

In a prison transport we were shipped to Pirmasens. There we were confined in the police prison, were forced to undress and subsequently, naked as we were, we were locked up in a cold, empty cell. We were ordered to carry our garments and leave them in front of the cell door outside. No blankets were issued and likewise no food. The following morning we were shipped on in the direction of Luxembourg where we arrived around noon and we were thrown into a one man cell, 3 men to a cell.

On the following day I was summoned before the military examining judge who notified me in brief terms that I was extradited to Luxembourg for being charged with 11 murders. To my question regarding the identity of these murdered people I was told that I would learn about that at some later date. In this connection I would like to mention that all police men and judges who had been assigned to Luxembourg during the German occupation were extradited for murder and that civil servants or employees of other agencies were extradited for looting and that the dwarf state of Luxembourg with its 280,000 inhabitants held confined more than 200 so called war criminals. The majority of the arrestees were picked up in the internment camps of the three Western Zones in Germany. My personal opinion is that the occupation authorities were deceived since as already stated before, all policeman and judges were simply termed assassins and officials of other categories looters. As late as the end of 1948 the French authorities turned over to the Luxembourgers a German town mayor who was charged with looting. This man was a mayor of a small Luxembourg town during the years 1940-1944. At wars end the Luxembourgers found that a coin collection valued 200,000 DM and which was municipal property had disappeared. This was for them reason adequate enough to pick up the mayor, lock him up as a war criminal and treat him accordingly.

During my 4 year imprisonment in Luxembourg the treatment I received on the part of the prison staff was with few exceptions extremely contemptuous. For over two years I was kept locked up in a cell that was crawling with bed bugs and open to wind and rain. All complaints made found no attention. During the first weeks of my imprisonment I had Germans for company then we were separated and criminal elements of the worst type were locked up in my cell and these came and left constantly. There was exercise only when it didn't rain and even then ten minutes a day only. The rations were monotonous but adequate.

After imprisonment every "war criminal" had his picture taken which was then shown in all of the important Luxembourg newspapers. Citizens of Luxembourg who had any complaints were requested to report to the police or the courts. It may be mentioned here that after Luxembourg's occupation by the Americans, the government of Luxembourg published a law which provided for all person who considered themselves victims of bodily or financial abuse by the German occupation authorities to apply for restitution.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

37 1-23-1013

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

In my case a man from Vianden appeared on the scene and stated that on the occasion of his apprehension and arrest by me he had been beaten with a rubber truncheon to such an extent that he suffered a contortion of the vertebrae of the spine. The fact is however that this man who had been strongly suspected of having shot dead a German soldier from behind, in collusion with another Vianden citizen, received no more than a few slaps in the face and that the physical condition was not the result of his treatment by me but rather a decrepitude of long standing. Doctor RAU from Reutlingen who was my counsel at the trial was able to submit positive proof derived from the court files in this case. A pension requested by this witness was not approved for lack of evidence in his favor. In spite of it the allegations of this individual were accepted as the truth. In view of the fact that only this man from Vianden and nobody else appeared in answer to the newspaper proclamation of the government and since this was not adequate for the court, the gendarmerie was requested to summon for re-interrogation all persons apprehended during my period of service in Luxembourg. Hence, 6 more persons appeared who stated under oath that they were beaten by me. These persons were on the average not enjoying any good reputation with the people of Luxembourg. Among the witnesses against me were no persons among the middle class or those belonging to the intellectual class. Even though I was able to disapprove the allegation credence was given to the statements of the witnesses and not to me. One of the witnesses for instance stated he had been beaten by a motor vehicle driver belonging to my office and that I had been the driver, another man stated that he knew me since 1940 and that he always saw me wearing the black SS uniform. The truth is that I never wore the SS uniform and that I only came to Luxembourg in 1944. On the basis of these charges trial against me and Gendarmister Otto HELLBRUCK, who was the guard Commander in Vianden, was held about the end of 1948. HELLBRUCK was also charged with a number of crimes. About the beginning of 1949 HELLBRUCK was notified that the charges against him had been suspended. A few days later he was set free. I was told that I would be one of the accused in the forthcoming monster Gestapo trial and this was what actually happened. With reference to HELLBRUCK I may state that all former police agents provided they were not Gestapo agents were released after more or less extensive internment without benefit of trial. Although similar and even more serious crimes were charged to them or even proven against them.

I was not charged with homicide. Homicide constituted the fact that 11 arrestees failed to be released from camp. The majority of them were victims of air raids. In March 1950 the monster Gestapo trial took place. The District Attorney demanded penitentiary sentence in my case, forced labor for the other 8 accused and death sentence for two other men. On 4 August 1950 I was suddenly summoned before the District Attorney who notified me that I would be given a leave of absence to take effect immediately but that I would obligate myself to appear for reading of the finding in court. On the following day I was released (copy of my release order is attached hereto). In January 1951 I received a written request to appear for trial on 19 February 1951 in Luxembourg. I complied with the request. Already at noon time of the first day of trial the court was adjourned because one of the members thereof took ill of the flu. It was left to the discretion of the accused who at any rate were at liberty whether they wanted to appear for the next session or whether they wanted to stay away. I preferred the latter. A certificate issued by the Military Auditor is attached hereto. I learned by hearsay that I had been sentenced to a term of five years in prison at a trial which took place in March 1951. So far I had not been sent the verdict, and it is most likely that I will never get it.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION